

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as shown in the Listing of Claims below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A free-standing plant support for use with an open-topped plant container for growing a plant, said free-standing plant support consisting of:

a single endless loop of stiff linear material having a rectangular or trapezoid shape and having a 90° bend between parts of said loop thereby forming a plant support member and an anchor member each made up of a pair of elongated rods cross-connected with a connecting rod at ends of said pair of rods remote from said bend, said plant support member and said anchor member thereby being rigidly and permanently attached to each other at said bend;

said plant support member having a generally vertical orientation and having a lower end at said bend, and an upper end remote from said lower end, said connecting rod of said plant support member being adjacent to said upper end and grippable by hand, and

said anchor member forming a base element extending generally horizontally, said base element dimensioned to stand freely within said plant container without contacting the sidewalls of said plant container;

whereby said base element may be positioned beneath a mass of growth medium in said container with said plant support member extending vertically from said mass of growth medium to facilitate support of a plant growing in said mass, and to facilitate lifting and transportation of said container filled with said mass of growth medium via said part of said plant support member that is grippable by hand.

Claims 2 to 16 (Previously Cancelled).

Claim 17. (original) The plant support of claim 1, wherein said stiff material is selected from the group consisting of metal wire, plastic-coated metal wire, metal rod, plastic-coated metal rod, molded plastic rod and molded fiberglass rod.

Claims 18 to 35 (Previously Cancelled).

Claim 36. (Currently amended) A combination comprising an open-topped plant container and a free-standing plant support, said open-topped container having sidewalls, a bottom and an open top, and containing a mass of growth medium, said free-standing plant support consisting only of:

a single endless loop of stiff linear material having a rectangular or trapezoid shape and having a 90° bend between parts of said loop thereby forming a plant support member and an anchor member each made up of a pair of elongated rods cross-connected with a connecting rod at ends of said pair of rods remote from said bend, said plant support member and said anchor member thereby being rigidly and permanently attached to each other at said bend;

said plant support member having a generally vertical orientation and having a lower end at said bend, and an upper end remote from said lower end, said connecting rod of said plant support member being adjacent to said upper end and grippable by hand, and

said anchor member forming a base element extending generally horizontally, said base element dimensioned to stand freely within said plant container without contacting the sidewalls of said plant container,

whereby said base element may be positioned beneath a mass of growth medium in said container with said plant support member extending vertically from said mass of growth medium to facilitate support of a plant growing in said mass, and to facilitate lifting and transportation of said container filled with said mass of growth medium via said part of said plant support member that is grippable by hand.

Claim 37. (Currently Amended) The combination of claim 36, wherein said container has a diameter and said base member extends horizontally from said lower end of said free-standing plant support member by a distance equivalent to at least 20% of said diameter.

Claims 38 to 39 (Previously Cancelled).

Claim 40 (Currently Amended) The combination of claim 36, wherein said plant container has a maximum diameter and said free-standing plant support member has a

maximum lateral width that is less than said maximum diameter of the plant container.

Claims 41 to 43 (Previously Cancelled).